

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2003, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly define embodiments consistent with the present invention. Claims 1-20 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully request.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for including references numerals for Figures 2A-2R not mentioned in the description. Applicants have amended Figures 2A-2R in order to remove the reference numerals for those drawings. The reference numerals are referenced in an appendix included in a related patent incorporated by reference.

The Examiner objected to the claim for an earlier filing date. Applicants have amended the description of related applications to correctly refer to the U.S. provisional application as a related application, rather than forming the basis for a continuation-in-part application. Applicants have also updated the statement of the other related applications to include serial numbers and filing dates for them.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,149,441 (Pellegrino patent). Independent claims 1 and 11 have both been amended to recite that the on-line content is provided "within a database." Claims 1 and 11 have also been amended to recite, respectively, "using an interface to prevent the users interacting directly with the database by receiving the edited content from the users and implementing the edited content in the database according to a format required by the database," and use of "an interface module for preventing the users interacting directly with the database by receiving the edited content from the users and implementing the edited content in the database according to a format required by the database." These amendments are supported in the application as filed by at least Figure 4A and the text on p. 53, line 14 to p. 55, line 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Pellegrino patent does not disclose or suggest the use of an interface or interface module as recited in claims 1 and 11. The screens in the Pellegrino patent illustrate a user's interaction with the system to make lesson plans, and the description makes no mention of an interface to format the entered information. For example, Figure 34 in the Pellegrino patent illustrates a user performing

functions directly on content, such as modify and delete functions. Figure 36 identifies even more functions that the user performs directly on information for lessons, and Table III more specifically defines the various user controls for building lessons directly in the system. (See Pellegrino patent, Fig. 36 and col. 25, lines 10-65.)

The present invention, as defined in claims 1 and 11, provides for distinct advantages over the Pellegrino patent. Certain advantages of using an interface were recognized and described in the present application as filed:

The interface 1102 provides for control and management of the content in database 1104 and ensures, for example, that the requested editing by the user is appropriate for the content in question. In particular, the interface helps to ensure the integrity of the database by controlling users' creation or editing of content for it. Therefore, users do not interact directly with the database, which helps to minimize the potential for users to either intentionally or inadvertently corrupt the database.

(Specification, p. 54, lines 16-22.)

The interface thus helps to both ensure the integrity of the database and potentially alleviate a burden on users creating lessons of making sure that the content in is the correct format. When the database uses tables, for example, the present application as filed recognized this benefit. "The interface can programmatically check new or edited content submitted by a user against the corresponding table in the database to ensure that the content satisfies the requirements of that table. If it does satisfy the requirements, the interface can then write the content to the database table or edit content in the table based upon the user's submission." (Specification, p. 55, lines 6-10.)

Therefore, the present invention checks the formatting of received content and, when necessary, performs the functions of formatting data received by a user before writing the data to a database storing the educational course. The Pellegrino patent does not disclose or suggest such functionality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 are patentable at least because they recite the use of an interface or interface module, not disclosed in the cited reference for the reasons provided above.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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